

From: POLITICO Pro Energy
To: megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by Trout Unlimited: Big week for international climate action — Pruitt recuses himself from many environmental lawsuits — Zinke hits Utah for monument input
Date: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:44:22 AM

By Anthony Adragna | 05/08/2017 05:40 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff and Alex Guillén

CRUNCH TIME FOR CLIMATE: It's a crucial week for international climate policy as President Donald Trump's White House prepares for a couple of pivotal meetings that may determine whether the U.S. remains a party to the landmark Paris agreement on climate change. Ivanka Trump is scheduled to meet with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Tuesday morning ahead of a broader gathering of close aides. The landmark 2015 climate change pact has divided the White House advisers, and a final decision is expected as soon as this week. And this all comes as the U.S. delegation to an international climate meeting kicking off in Bonn, Germany today.

Are the bonbons in Bonn bon? Or are they gut? While the official schedule for the German gathering starting today is laden with technical questions on implementation of the Paris climate deal, the undercurrent will be focused on two questions: Will the U.S. stay in the agreement, and what consequences will the rest of the world impose if the Trump administration withdraws. Foreign leaders have been trying to persuade the Trump to stay in the deal, but the prevailing winds appear to be blowing for withdrawal. The Bonn meeting is the first opportunity for climate diplomats to get together in one room and talk out their options since Trump took office in January. "There will be a small island states in the forum, and they will take advantage of the [gathering] to meet," Jake Schmidt, director of international programs for the NRDC, told ME. "The U.S. situation will be a hot topic in those meetings."

U.S. will be in hizz-aus: The Trump administration will send a small delegation to the meeting, a State Department spokesperson told Pro's Eric Wolff on Friday, and sources tell ME it will be lead by Trigg Talley, a career diplomat and the deputy special envoy for climate. The spokesperson said the delegation is "focused on ensuring that decisions are not taken at these meetings that would prejudice our future policy, undermine the competitiveness of U.S. businesses, or hamper our broader objective of advancing U.S. economic growth and prosperity."

The actual agenda: The Paris agreement took effect last year, but there's a mountain of work to ensure proper implementation. The main goal is to get going on the Paris "rulebook," which sets terms for how countries make carbon reductions and how they prove it, the World Resources Institute says in a blog post. "I'd particularly highlight the development of rules on transparency, WRI's David Waskow tells ME. "That was a long-sought objective of the U.S. on a bipartisan basis, and the rules being developed can spell that out fully in terms of the exact modes of reporting and review."

Voices still chiming in: More than 200 investors representing more than \$15 trillion in assets released a letter today urging the U.S. and other countries to remain a participant of the Paris agreement. "The implementation of effective climate policy mechanisms and the regular monitoring of outcomes is vital for investors to make well-informed investment decisions that

can also better support governments in delivering their national commitments and priorities," they wrote. Signatories include the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the New York State Comptroller's office. And 19 companies including Adobe, Apple, Facebook, Gap, Google, Johnson Controls, Mars Incorporated and National Grid are out with a full-page ad in The New York Times this morning urging the Trump administration to stay in as well.

Meanwhile, 40 free-market and conservative groups, including the Competitive Enterprise Institute and the American Energy Alliance, sent a letter to Trump this morning urging him to follow through on his campaign vow to withdraw from the agreement.

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Southern Environmental Law Center's Nat Mund was first to identify Vermont as the only state without a living former senator. For today: What state did James D. Martin, the oldest living former congressman, represent in Congress? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

LAST CHANCE FOR METHANE CRA: This week is the Senate's last opportunity to undo an Obama-era regulation targeting methane emissions from oil and gas operations on public lands using the Congressional Review Act. When the chamber departed last week, it appeared Republicans hadn't yet been able to rally the 50 votes necessary to nullify the rule, but backers projected confidence it would ultimately pass. Senior Republicans were battling a small bloc of corn-state senators seeking action on a waiver to sell 15 percent ethanol fuel year-round, as well as a group of four other senators — [Rob Portman](#), [Cory Gardner](#), [Heidi Heitkamp](#) and [Dean Heller](#) — who are publicly undecided on whether to back the CRA.

Speak now: A collection of local elected officials sent [a letter](#) to Portman — who is seen as especially crucial to the resolution's ultimate fate — on Friday urging him not to support its passage. And Taxpayers for Common Sense will send [a letter](#) today urging senators to work with the Trump administration to fix any shortcomings in the existing regulation rather than using the CRA on it. "The BLM is the only agency that has authority to charge royalties on lost methane gas. If the rule is thrown out under the CRA, taxpayers stand to lose millions of dollars in royalties from natural gas wasted during drilling on federal lands in coming years," says Ryan Alexander, the group's president.

Final appeal: A group of 40 law professors is sending [a letter](#) this morning also advising against using the CRA on the methane rule.

J'RECUSE: Pruitt has decided to recuse himself from participating in 12 different lawsuits he got involved in during his time as Oklahoma attorney general, Pro's Alex Guillén [reports](#), citing a four-page [memo](#) obtained by E&E. The lawsuits cover regulations such as the carbon emissions from future plants, the 2015 ozone standard and the mercury rule, a legal dispute over state NO₂ pollution plans and ongoing litigation over the Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal, as well as the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. litigation. Without a Senate-confirmed deputy or general counsel, Pruitt has empowered chief of staff Ryan Jackson "to take appropriate action or refer it with the Agency for appropriate action or assignment, without my knowledge or involvement."

PRUITT CLARIFIES EMAIL TESTIMONY: A "small portion" of emails on Pruitt's personal account may have concerned official state business while he served as Oklahoma

attorney general, and he's turned over all messages to state officials as they comply with outstanding open records requests, the EPA administrator wrote in [a Friday letter](#) to the Senate EPW Committee. Questions arose after Pruitt testified during his confirmation hearing that he only used an official state-issued account for business, but reports surfaced indicating he used a personal address as well. Pruitt said his initial response was "was based on the best information available at the time and having only four days to complete approximately 1,100 written questions and subparts," while noting political matters that touch on official business may be discussed on personal email under Oklahoma law.

NOT REHIRE: EPA has opted not to grant another term to 12 of its current science advisers, spokesman J.P. Freire tells ME, though the agency strongly disputes other reports they've been fired. Rather, as ME readers [learned last week](#), Pruitt's opted to reopen the nomination process for outside scientific counselors. One of those affected, Michigan State University professor Robert Richardson, [tweeted](#): "I have had the pleasure of serving on the EPA Board of Scientific Counselors, and my appointment was terminated today." The advisory board at issue, the [Board of Scientific Counselors](#), is currently made up of 18 members that provide advice and recommendations to EPA's Office of Research and Development.

**** A message from Trout Unlimited:** For over 50 years, Trout Unlimited has been dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and watersheds on behalf of today's anglers and coming generations of sportsmen and women. Join us as we support America's public lands and national monuments: <http://bit.ly/2paVoYB> **

EPA DEPUTY COUNSEL REPRESENTED UTILITY, STEEL MAKER: One of the Trump administration's first beachhead team members at EPA who is now one of the agency's top attorneys previously represented a major utility and other companies potentially affected by EPA rules and actions, according to an ethics disclosure released to POLITICO. Justin Schwab, who is now deputy general counsel at EPA, provided legal services for Southern Co. as an associate at the law firm BakerHostetler. The utility was included on a list of recent clients Schwab disclosed to EPA. The [list](#) also included Big River Steel, a steel producer that recently built a new \$1.3 billion "flex" mill in Arkansas, lawncare company Scotts, heavy equipment maker Caterpillar and metal producer Mississippi Silicon. Schwab also revealed his clients included [Bruno Iksil](#), aka the "London Whale," the financial trader at the center of JPMorgan's infamous 2012 trading losses.

IT'S MACRON! Center-left Emmanuel Macron soundly defeated Marine Le Pen for the French presidency on Sunday. On energy and environment, POLITICO Europe's Sara Stefanini says you can expect a broad continuation of François Hollande's plan to gradually move from nuclear to renewables. Here are recent stories on the biggest energy headache he faces — such as the future of the powerful [French nuclear](#) sector — and his [policies on everything](#) from the EDF-Areva merger to diesel subsidies.

ZINKE'S IN UTAH! Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is in Utah right now as part of a four-day listening tour regarding the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Hundreds gathered at the state Capitol on Saturday ahead of Zinke's visit to encourage him to listen to all perspectives on Bears Ears as he mulls whether to shrink or even rescind the Obama-era designation, according to the [Salt Lake Tribune](#). Interior has not released a list of people Zinke will meet with while in Utah, though he tweeted about meetings with the [Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition](#), the state's [School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration](#), [Sen. Orrin Hatch](#) and [Gov. Gary Herbert](#).

Broader list announced: On Friday, the Interior Department released a list of 22 monuments Zinke will review under Trump's executive order from late April, Pro's Esther Whieldon [reports](#). He'll have 45 days to look at Bears Ears and 120 days to examine the remaining 21 monuments before offering recommendations, which could include legislative fixes. "There is no pre-determined outcome on any monument," Zinke said in a statement. "I look forward to hearing from and engaging with local communities and stakeholders as this process continues."

CHICAGO POSTS EPA CLIMATE PAGE: Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's administration launched its [own webpage](#) over the weekend, culling data from EPA's pulled website, on the science and dangers of climate change, POLITICO's Edward-Isaac Dovere [reports](#). "The Trump administration can attempt to erase decades of work from scientists and federal employees on the reality of climate change, but burying your head in the sand doesn't erase the problem," Emanuel said. The mayor promised to expand and build upon the site over the coming weeks.

LET ME BE BRIEFED: Top Energy and Commerce Democrat [Frank Pallone](#) sent [letters](#) Friday to 19 top officials in various EPA office and departments seeking briefings on the Trump administration's proposed cuts to their budgets. "The Committee has serious concerns that such severe budget and personnel cuts would undermine the agency's critically important work at the expense of human health and the environment," he wrote. Pallone sent the letters because an earlier briefing request to Administrator Scott Pruitt has yet to receive an answer.

FLORIDA'S ENERGY FIGHTS: A closely watched statewide fracking ban didn't go very far and several other bills that emerged late in the session went nowhere, but Florida's legislative session proved to be surprisingly active on energy-related issues, POLITICO Florida's Bruce Ritchie [reports](#). Arguably the most consequential was legislation that extended from residential to commercial a property tax break for renewable energy source devices. "The final bill wasn't a bulls-eye, but it came very close to the mark and is a win for solar in Florida," Scott Thomasson, southeast region director for Vote Solar, told Bruce.

TAKING INPUT ON FUTURE OF NAVAJO GENERATING: Interior announced Friday it will hold four listening sessions in Arizona during the week of May 15th on the future of the Navajo Generating Station. The 2,250 megawatt power plant, one of America's largest coal plants, supports hundreds of tribal jobs but is slated to close in 2019 unless another solution is found. The four utilities that operate the plant announced in February they'd shut it down because coal was too expensive a fuel in the face of cheap natural gas.

QUICK HITS

- As coal jobs decline, solar sector shines. [NPR](#).
- Divestment movement builds against Dakota Access Pipeline. [Mashable](#).
- Trudeau considers retribution against U.S. over lumber tariffs. [Fox News](#).
- EPA administrators eye Bird Creek, lay out plans to find contamination source. [Tulsa World](#).
- Al Gore Calls Media Coverage of Climate Change a "Nature Hike Through the Book of Revelation". [Hollywood Reporter](#).

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:00 a.m. — [Energy Efficiency Global Forum](#), Alliance to Save Energy, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW

12:00 p.m. — Brookings Institution media briefing on D.C.'s renewable energy, St. Louis Room, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW

TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. — [Energy Efficiency Global Forum](#), Alliance to Save Energy, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW

2:00 p.m. — "[Water and Security in South and Southeast Asia](#)," Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

2:30 p.m. — "[Water Resources: The Role of the Public and Private Sectors](#)," Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 406 Dirksen

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. — "[Conservation, Consultation, and Capacity: State Views on the Need to Modernize the Endangered Species Act](#)," Senate Environment and Public Works, 406 Dirksen

2:30 p.m. — Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee [hearing](#) on various bills, 366 Dirksen

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

**** A message from Trout Unlimited:** For over 100 years the Antiquities Act has been a bipartisan tool for conserving America's public lands and our outdoor heritage. Since the time President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Act into law, the Antiquities Act has provided for the long-term conservation of some of the best fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and angling opportunities in the country, spurring local economies. In these places, locally driven conservation efforts need to be preserved and celebrated. Currently, the Department of the Interior is reviewing national monuments designations. Secretary Zinke has strongly supported keeping America's public lands in public hands. Join us in showing him that we support upholding our national monuments: <http://bit.ly/2paVoYB> **

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/05/big-week-for-international-climate-action-022712>

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Europe to Trump: Don't abandon Paris climate deal [Back](#)

By Andrew Restuccia, Kalina Oroschakoff and Sara Stefanini | 05/04/2017 05:42 PM EDT

European leaders are working to persuade President Donald Trump to remain in the Paris climate change agreement, warning of dire diplomatic consequences if the United States withdraws and stressing that the administration would not be bound by Barack Obama's plan to tackle global warming.

But they're also uncertain how best to influence the unpredictable U.S. president — and fearful of angering him if they overplay their hand. So the European officials are mixing diplomacy with quiet attempts to get their message into news coverage and social media, while avoiding any mentions of the retaliation that some angry foreign leaders might pursue if Trump exits the deal.

The coordinated, behind-the-scenes campaign includes efforts by the European Commission and key European Union countries like Germany, France and the United Kingdom, diplomats told POLITICO. They said they're underscoring the harm that would result if the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases were to abandon the most extensive global deal ever reached for addressing climate change.

"Almost anyone that is aware of this debate and is politically engaged in climate is trying to influence this outcome in any way possible," said an international diplomat who, like others quoted in this story, requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive campaign.

Trump's top advisers are set to huddle Tuesday to discuss the fate of the 2015 agreement, and a final decision could come soon afterward.

The debate has divided his most senior aides, with his daughter Ivanka Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in favor of remaining in the pact. Others, including senior White House adviser Steve Bannon and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, support leaving the deal, as Trump pledged while campaigning on his nationalist "America First" platform.

Seeking to press their case, European officials have had regular conversations in recent days and weeks with White House and administration advisers, including aides at the State Department, NSC and National Economic Council.

Western diplomats say they fear that a U.S. withdrawal could result in a "domino effect" prompting other countries to follow suit, in the words of one official. "We are trying to clarify that politically, legally, economically, it does make sense for the U.S. to remain," the official said.

European diplomats have largely avoided playing hardball, deliberately eschewing any mention of possible retaliation if the U.S. withdraws, sources said. While the Paris agreement does not include any punitive measures if a country withdraws, individual countries could impose trade-related measures that make it more difficult to do business with nations that pull out of the deal. But international officials insist they are not considering such steps.

But not all the European governments are certain to whom they should make their case. Not only is the White House divided, but the State Department has few, if any, political appointees focused on climate change. And while diplomats stressed that they understand where individual Trump advisers stand on Paris, they are sometimes unsure about the best way to directly influence the president, short of a one-on-one conversation with a head of government.

It's unclear whether foreign leaders will take their case directly to Trump, but diplomats didn't rule out that option. Fijian President George Konrote asked Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to press Trump on the issue when Turnbull and Trump meet Thursday in New York, said Jake Schmidt, director of the international program for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Lacking insider information about Trump's plans, international officials have sometimes relied on the abundant media reports about the closed-door dispute. Diplomats focused on international climate change issues told POLITICO they had never seen inner deliberations leaked to the media as regularly as they have been during the Trump administration's internal debate over Paris.

Administration advocates for withdrawing from the pact argue that remaining would present legal complications for Trump's efforts to undo Obama's domestic climate agenda — a fear that State Department lawyers who helped negotiate the agreement call unfounded. Trump's White House counsel has [echoed](#) those concerns in recent days, which some administration officials see as an indication that Trump will ultimately decide to withdraw.

Even so, several administration officials cautioned that things could change, pointing to Trump's [last-minute decision](#) last month to remain in NAFTA.

European diplomats increasingly see the media as a character in the drama surrounding Trump's Paris decision, hoping that news coverage of their arguments will make its way to the media-obsessed president.

In doing so, international officials and environmentalists have found themselves in the bizarre position of insisting that Trump has the flexibility to weaken the carbon-reduction commitments that the Obama administration made in Paris — despite their strong desire to see them strengthened over time.

EU Climate Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete released a statement Wednesday saying the Paris agreement contains room "for a new U.S. Administration to chart its own path." The statement appeared intended to rebut the internal arguments by some Trump advisers who contend the deal prevents countries from weakening their domestic climate targets.

Sources said Arias Cañete has reached out to senior White House and administration officials this week to raise concerns about the possibility of a withdrawal and to persuade the U.S. of the political and economic advantages of staying in the deal.

Laurence Tubiana, who in her capacity as France's climate ambassador played a key role in clinching the Paris deal, [took to Twitter](#) on Wednesday to say the American people will lose if the "US government denies them clean energy, green jobs clean air and water and abandons" the pact.

In an interview with POLITICO, she also said the U.S. is not legally bound to stick with Obama's pledge to cut domestic carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. "That's totally fair from the point of view of the legal aspect of the agreement," she said when asked whether the U.S. could alter its target, adding, "This is not a binding element of the agreement."

She stressed nonetheless that she hopes the U.S. doesn't change its target, saying that doing so

isn't in the "spirit" of the deal.

On Thursday, European Council President Donald Tusk took a stab at coaxing the U.S. to stay, urging Washington to look at Norway as an example of a country that's tackling climate change and developing renewable energy while still benefiting from big fossil fuel exports.

"The Norwegian example should provide encouragement to our American friends, as the climate challenge we all face can only be addressed by common global action," Tusk said during a news conference with Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg in Brussels.

Frank Bainimarama, the prime minister of Fiji and incoming president of the ongoing international climate talks, joined in the chorus warning Trump not to withdraw. "Stay the course," he [said](#) on Tuesday. "Listen to those around you who are encouraging you to do so."

Separately, a coalition of small island nations that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change said in a Thursday statement that the Paris deal is their "last hope for the survival."

An international diplomat who declined to be named said it is "very clear which country we had in mind when" the small island nations adopted their statement.

"The bad feeling generated among the other 143 countries that have ratified the Paris agreement would infect all areas of U.S. diplomatic interests — not just climate change," the diplomat added. "Everybody would lose."

Indeed, a withdrawal would infuriate the international community, which took pains to ensure that the Paris deal was largely not legally binding at the insistence of the Obama administration. Many world leaders who had preferred a more stringent agreement would see a U.S. pullback as a slap in the face.

Diplomats said a withdrawal would also revive decades-long distrust of the United States that reached a fever pitch when George W. Bush refused to back the Kyoto Protocol that the Clinton administration signed in 1998.

Meanwhile, major corporations are also weighing in.

Jessica Uhl, Shell's chief financial officer, underscored the company's support for the Paris agreement on Thursday, saying it's the "right path forward for society." Asked if the company has discussed the issue with the Trump administration, Uhl said: "I think Mr. Trump has enough advisers, but we certainly do engage with the administration to ensure that we can grow our business appropriately in the U.S., which is a very important market for us, and influence where appropriate."

Other companies — including Exxon Mobil, which Tillerson led for more than a decade as CEO — have also [called on](#) Trump to remain in the agreement.

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Pruitt backs off carbon rule, WOTUS litigation following ethics review [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 05/05/2017 04:58 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt this week stepped aside from a dozen lawsuits he participated in as Oklahoma's attorney general, including challenges to the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the U.S. rule, according to a [report](#) in E&E News.

In the absence of a Senate-confirmed deputy or general counsel, for these matters Pruitt has empowered chief of staff Ryan Jackson "to take appropriate action or refer it with the Agency for appropriate action or assignment, without my knowledge or involvement," according to a four-page [memo](#) obtained by E&E.

In the memo to top EPA officials, dated May 4, Pruitt says he will demonstrate a "profound commitment to carrying out [his] ethical responsibilities" by not participating in 12 different lawsuits.

Aside from the Clean Power Plan and WOTUS, the suits Pruitt is recusing himself from cover regulations such as the carbon emissions from future plants, the 2015 ozone standard and the mercury rule, a legal dispute over state NO₂ pollution plans, and ongoing litigation over the Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal.

"I understand this commitment is longer than is required by federal impartiality standards, but I am taking this action to avoid even the appearance of any impropriety under federal ethics or professional responsibility obligations," Pruitt wrote.

He added that he has yet to participate in any decisions made about those cases "at all," and will seek ethics guidance if he ever decides to get involved in the future.

EPA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

WHAT'S NEXT: Pruitt will not participate in the specified lawsuits without further consulting ethics officials. His chief of staff, Ryan Jackson, will be designated to oversee those operations.

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Pruitt to seek new EPA scientific advisers [Back](#)

By Annie Snider | 05/04/2017 04:32 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is reopening the nomination process for outside scientific counselors to advise the agency on research and development, according to internal agency emails obtained by POLITICO.

In an email to staffers yesterday, Office of Policy chief Samantha Dravis said Pruitt would not be moving forward at this time with the reappointment of nine members of the [Board of Scientific Counselors](#) whose terms expired last week, and that political leaders "would like to re-open the nominations process." The board is a federal advisory committee currently made

up of 18 members that provides advice and recommendations to EPA's Office of Research and Development. It has tackled issues ranging from methods for evaluating lead exposure to wildfire smoke risks in recent years.

The move comes as congressional Republicans have been pushing to alter the process by which science is overseen and used to inform regulations at EPA — changes that GOP lawmakers say would promote fairness and transparency, but that environmental groups argue would give more influence to industry.

EPA political leaders also opted to withdraw the agency program from consideration for a Harvard University Kennedy School of Government award. According to the emails, the [Federal Community of Practice on Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science](#), a program co-chaired by EPA to help government agencies with citizen science initiatives, is a finalist for the Innovations in American Government Awards. Pruitt needed to sign a form in order for the program to move forward in the competition, but Dravis informed staffers yesterday that "the Administrator will not be moving forward at this time" with the award.

Last week, EPA said it [removed](#) "outdated language" referring to Obama-era programs that President Donald Trump has targeted for elimination, including virtually all mentions of climate change.

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Interior asks for input on monument review [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 05/05/2017 05:21 PM EDT

The Interior Department is asking members of the public to weigh in on Secretary Ryan Zinke's review of national monuments spanning tens of millions of acres of federal land.

The department released a [list](#) of 22 monuments created since 1996 that Zinke will be reviewing in conjunction with an executive order President Donald Trump [signed](#) last month.

Zinke was given 45 days to review Bears Ears National monument in Utah and he is slated to visit with officials in the state early next week. The secretary has 120 days to examine the remaining 21 monuments on the list and come back with recommendations, which could include legislative fixes.

WHAT'S NEXT: The Interior said it will begin accepting public comments next Friday. Comments will be accepted for 15 days on Bears Ears and 60 days on the other designations.

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Chicago mayor Emanuel posts EPA's deleted climate change page [Back](#)

By Edward-Isaac Dovere | 05/06/2017 10:42 AM EDT

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's response to the Trump administration pulling down its website detailing information about climate change: putting up his own.

The new section of the [City of Chicago's website](#), launched this weekend, pulls data from the archived Environmental Protection Agency page, noting, "while this information may not be readily available on the agency's webpage right now, here in Chicago we know climate change is real and we will continue to take action to fight it." Emanuel is promising to build the site out more in the coming weeks, using city resources.

"The Trump administration can attempt to erase decades of work from scientists and federal employees on the reality of climate change, but burying your head in the sand doesn't erase the problem," Emanuel said.

Through both Republican and Democratic administrations in the past two decades, the EPA accepted and promoted climate change data. That changed under President Donald Trump, who's expressed doubts about the science and already eliminated regulations put in place by President Barack Obama, and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who has repeatedly questioned global warming and fought environmental protections from the government he argues unfairly target businesses.

Last week, the EPA scrapped the [climate-change website](#).

"We are currently updating our website to reflect EPA's priorities under the leadership of President Trump and Administrator Pruitt," a message on the "page is being updated" EPA site has read since.

Emanuel said he wants to see other cities and universities joining in preserving the data that the federal government is removing to ensure it stays public.

Emanuel, in office in 2011 after serving as Obama's first chief of staff, has a local environmental record reducing carbon emissions and waste that he likes to tout. The new Chicago website has information about the science of climate change and its effects on the weather, human impact that has accelerated the problem and steps the federal government had been taking to reduce it.

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